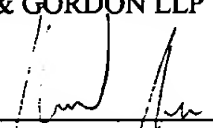


REMARKS

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.33422.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1 2. (amended) The method of claim 1, characterized by establishing said link between at
2 least two modules concomitantly defining the hearing aid apparatus or to [a] the hearing aid
3 apparatus and an additional appliance.

1 3. (amended) The method of claim 1[or], further comprising the step of establishing an
2 electrical connection separate from [and by establishing] said mechanical link.

1 4. (amended) The method of [one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 establishing a predetermined relative positioning of parts by establishing said mechanical link.

1 5. (amended) The method of [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 enabling or disabling said [establishing] mechanical link by selecting polarity direction of at least
3 two magnets for said mechanical linking.

1 6. (amended) The method of [one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein parts whereat said
2 link is established are [, on the other hand,] at least a signal processing module and [, on the other
3 hand,] at least one of the following [parts]:

- 4 – a battery or accumulator module;
5 – an emitter and/or receiver module;
6 – a filter module;
7 – a microphone module; and
8 – an optical or electrical cable.

1 8. (amended) The method of [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein said link is
2 established between at least one magnet and a casing of a battery or accumulator module
3 comprised in said hearing aid apparatus [whereas said casing is made of ferromagnetic material].

1 9. (amended) A method for establishing an electrical connection to a or in a hearing aid
2 apparatus, characterized by establishing the electrical connection via a series capacitor[, thereby
3 exploiting a part of the hearing aid apparatus' casing as dielectricum of the capacitor].

1 11. (amended) The method of [one of claims 9 or 10] claim 9, characterized by
2 establishing said electrical connection between an electrical cable and an electric tab at said
casing[, thereby exploiting a part of the casing as said dielectricum].

1 13. (amended) The method of [one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, characterized by said
2 hearing aid apparatus being an in-the-ear hearing aid apparatus or an outside-the-ear hearing aid
3 apparatus for impaired or unimpaired hearing individuals or an earphone apparatus.

1 14. (amended) The method of [one of claims 11 or 12] claim 11, wherein said cable is [a
2 cable] to a transmitter module remote from said hearing aid apparatus.

1 15. (amended) The method of [one of claims 11 or 12] claim 11, wherein said cable is [a
2 linking cable] to a programming unit for programming said hearing aid apparatus.

1 16. (amended) The method of [one of claims 11 to 12] claim 11, wherein said cable is at
2 least a part of a link from one hearing aid apparatus to a second one.

1 17. (amended) The method of [one of claims 9 to 16] claim 9, characterized by
2 establishing a digital signal connection.

1 19. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of claim 18, characterized by [the fact] that in
2 the area of [the] a mechanical link to be established there is provided at one of said linking parts a
3 magnet arrangement [, preferably a permanent magnet arrangement,] and there is provided at the
4 other of said linking parts a second magnet arrangement [as well] or a counterpart of
5 ferromagnetic material.

1 20. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of claim 18 [or 19], characterized by [the fact]
2 that said mechanical linking members are [the mechanical linking members] for an electrical
3 connection.

1 21. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of [one of claims 18 to 20] claim 18,
2 characterized by [the fact] that said mechanical linking members comprise guiding members, said
3 guiding members ensuring establishing of said mechanical link in a predetermined mutual
4 position of said linkable parts.

1 22. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of [one of claims 18 to 21] claim 18, wherein
2 one of said linking parts comprises a signal processing module and the other of said linking parts
3 is one of the following:
4 – a battery or accumulator module;
5 – a transmitter and/or receiver module;
6 – a filter module;
7 – a microphone module; and
8 – an optical or electrical cable.

1 23. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of [one of claims 17 to 21] claim 18, wherein
2 said mechanical linking members are [the mechanical linking members] of an electrical galvanic
3 connection.

1 25. (amended) A hearing aid apparatus with a detachable electric connection,
2 characterized by [the fact] that said electrical connection comprises a series capacitance, a part of
3 a casing of said hearing aid apparatus forming the dielectricum of said capacitance.

1 27. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of claims 25 [or 26], wherein one part to be
2 electrically connected is the hearing aid apparatus, another part is a preferably one-lead connecting
3 cable.

1 30. (amended) The hearing aid apparatus of [one of claims 18 to 28] claim 18 being a
2 therapeutical outside-the-ear hearing aid apparatus or a therapeutical in-the-ear hearing aid
3 apparatus or an in-the-ear and/or an outside-the-ear applicable headphone.

1 31. (amended) A hearing aid apparatus system comprising a hearing aid apparatus
2 according to [one of the claims 18 to 29] claim 18, further comprising a transmitter module
3 remote from said hearing aid apparatus and being connectable to said connection of said hearing
4 aid apparatus.

1 32. (amended) A hearing aid system comprising a hearing aid apparatus according to [one
2 of claims 18 to 30] claim 18 and further comprising a remote programming unit for said hearing
3 aid device being connectable to said connection of said hearing aid apparatus.

1 33. (amended) A hearing aid system comprising a pair of hearing aid apparatuses
2 according to [one of the claims 18 to 31] claim 18 and a linking module being connectable to said
3 connections of both of said hearing aid apparatuses.